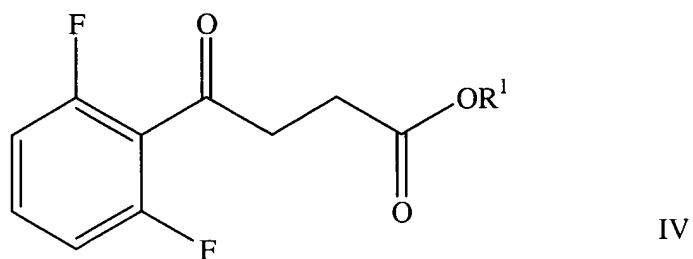


CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A biologically active agent, wherein the agent is a compound of the formula:



wherein

R^1 is hydrogen or alkyl having from 1 to 7 carbon atoms;

or when R^1 is hydrogen, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound.

2. The agent of claim 1, wherein R^1 is hydrogen or ethyl.
3. The agent of claim 2, wherein the compound is 4-(2,6-difluorophenyl)-4-oxobutyric acid.